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Message Text

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43
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

DHA-02 IO-10 OES-03 AID-05 EB-07 /073 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:AEBRAZEAL:SO
APPROVED BY ARA:HARYAN
ARA:GLISTER (PHONE)
ARA/APU:CEBARTCH
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 295966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UY

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH WILSON FERREIRA

REF: (A) MVD 4266, (B) MVD 4080, (C) STATE 291185

1. APU COUNTRY DIRECTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DESK OFFICER AND GEORGE LISTER MET WITH URUGUAYAN OPPOSITION LEADER WILSON FERREIRA AND SON JUAN RAUL FERREIRA DECEMBER 12. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATION:

A. FERREIRA SAID THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP TO THE US (AND MEXICO, COLUMBIA, ETC.) WAS TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN URUGUAY. HE MADE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME POINTS AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B, THAT BETWEEN 25-30,000 PERSONS HAD PASSED THROUGH URUGUAYAN JAILS UNDER THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, THAT BETWEEN 5-8,000 PERSONS ARE NORMALLY IN JAIL IN URUGUAY AT ANY GIVEN TIME, AND THAT TORTURE IS A COMMON PRACTICE. FERREIRA MENTIONED, AMONG
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OTHERS, THE SPECIFIC CASE OF LOPEZ BALESTRA, AN EX-

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CONGRESSMAN, WHO ACCORDING TO FERREIRA WAS ARRESTED AND TORTURED TWO MONTHS AGO. HE ALSO SAID URUGUAY'S POPULATION HAD DECLINED SINCE THE PRESENT REGIME ASSUMED POWER.

B. FERREIRA SAID EVERY URUGUAYAN BELIEVES THE USG IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING THE BORDABERRY REGIME IN POWER.

ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, HE MENTIONED THE POLITICAL CRISIS OF LAST MAY. FERREIRA STATED THAT IT IS COMMONLY BELIEVED THAT THE USG INTERVENED TO KEEP BORDABERRY IN POWER. HE ALSO SAID THE BORDABERRY ADMINISTRATION HAS RECEIVED MORE US ASSISTANCE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS THAN ALL PREVIOUS DEMOCRATIC URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENTS. THIS ASSISTANCE COMES FROM PRIVATE US BANKS, THE USG ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS "INDIRECTLY CONTROLLED BY THE US" (E.G. WORLD BANK, IDB).

C. THE MEETING LASTED AN HOUR AND A HALF. FERREIRA STATED HE HAD TALKED TO SENATOR KENNEDY AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S STAFF ASSISTANT IN ADDITION TO OTHERS. MEMCON FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

2. BARTCH INFORMED URUGUAYAN MINISTER TALAMAS (AMBASSADOR WAS NOT AVAILABLE) EARLIER THIS MORNING THAT MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED AT FERREIRA'S REQUEST. TALAMAS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BEING NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE, AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS. INGERSOLL

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